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ADVERTISEMENT

Recognizing the Symptoms of Autism

Growing with greater frequency than any other developmental disability, autism cases are increasing from between 10 and 17 percent each year. Because there is no known cause for autism, parents are left wondering about its symptoms and possible ways to help their children.

The key to early detection and treatment of autism is early recognition of autism symptoms. Here are some of the common autism symptoms that parents and caregivers should watch out for:

DIFFICULTY COMMUNICATING.

This can present itself in a number of different ways. For instance, some autistic children are uncomfortable carrying on a conversation. Others don't use words and instead will rely on hand gestures. Here are some other communication warning signs of autism:

- Language milestones that are delayed or not met
- Frequent rhyming that doesn't make sense
- Repetitive sounds, words, or phrases, possibly from a TV show or a book
- References to self in the incorrect person — calling himself "you" instead of "I"
- Not looking at things that are the topic of conversation or that others focus on; for instance, if you're talking about a car,

the child won't turn to look at the car.

DIFFICULTY INTERACTING SOCIALLY.

Children with autism often show unusual symptoms or act uncomfortable in social situations. This can include:

- Acting isolated or withdrawn
- Inability to express empathy for others
- Frequently playing alone instead of interacting with other people
- Difficulty making friends
- Avoiding eye contact
- Ignoring friendly advances, including smiling
- Problems playing games or just interacting with others during play

SENSITIVITY TO SENSORY STIMULATION.

Autistic children have unusual reactions to sensory stimulation — either no reaction at all or an over-sensitive reaction. Here are some autism symptoms relating to the senses:

- High tolerance for pain or, conversely, a very low threshold for pain
- Unusual sensitivity or very low sensitivity to taste, sights, sounds, smells, and touch
- Unusual responses to regular noises (not particularly loud), such as covering the ears or saying that the noise hurts
- No interest in

physical contact

- Frequent physical contact with objects — uses taste, touch, and smell to better investigate objects

BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS.

Children with autism may experience a wide variation of behavioral problems, including:

- Very aggressive behaviors
- Repetitive motions like rocking and twirling
- Interest in only a few activities or games played often
- Resistance to change or try new activities
- Difficulty paying attention
- Either demonstrating withdrawn, quiet behavior or being extremely active
- Acting out with severe temper tantrums
- Inability to move beyond one activity or problem

AUTISM: WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

If you notice unusual behaviors, acting out, or problems with communication and interaction in your child, don't brush it off as just a phase. Screening tests can diagnose autism, but only once you recognize the symptoms and alert your doctor.

Although autism can't be cured, early and consistent treatment can help ease the symptoms over time and allow autistic children to live relatively fulfilling, successful lives.

Recently Settled Cases

Penn & Seaborn recently settled a car accident case that occurred south of Blue Springs, Alabama in Barbour County. This accident occurred at the intersection of Alabama Highway 10 and Alabama Highway 105. Our client was traveling west on Highway 10 when the other driver pulled out in front of our client. The at fault driver was cited for driving under the influence, and was subsequently found guilty of dui in Barbour County District Court. At the time of this publication an appeal was pending.

This was a high impact collision that could have had disastrous results. Fortunately, our client was wearing his seat belt, and has recovered well from the accident. Recently, the case was settled and a good result was obtained for our client. This case is a prime example of why we should never assume that another driver will stop at a stop sign, or that a stopped driver is not going to pull out in front of us.

Firm settles car accident case that happened in Houston County for injured parents and child.

RECENTLY FILED SUITS

Firm files case in Dale County against driver who was on Facebook and rear ended our clients who were stopped at a red light. Our clients were returning home from a stay in the hospital.

Crenshaw County, Alabama car accident case

Barbour County, Alabama car accident case

Montgomery County, Alabama car accident case

Georgia car accident case

Know Your Rights...

A statute of limitations requires an individual to file their lawsuit within a certain amount of time. No matter how strong your case is or how badly you are hurt, if you miss the time period to file you cannot recover any money for your case. Below are the Alabama statute of limitations that applies to most common situations everyday people face.

Intentional torts (assault, battery, trespass, etc.).....	6 years
Most breaches of contract	6 years
Wrongful death.....	2 years
Defamation.....	2 years
Personal Injury.....	2 years
Fraud.....	2 years

(From the date of which the date the fraud should of reasonably been discovered)

The best advice is to contact a lawyer immediately if you feel you may have a potential claim and get them started on your case.

Defective Automobiles. Time is of the Essence.

In a motor vehicle accident, there may be a potential claim against the automobile manufacturer, in addition to a claim against any at fault drivers. Products liability cases are brought against manufacturers when their products are defective and the defect causes bodily injury or death. Some of the common product liability automobile cases involve fuel-fed fires, roof crush in roll over cases, seat belt failure, seat defects, tire blowouts, door latch failure, and vehicle occupant ejection.

Often product liability cases will involve a single vehicle accident where there are no other drivers. Scene mapping,

photographs, and having the automobile inspected by accident reconstructionists and engineers is critical in a product liability cases. Without this essential evidence it is nearly impossible to prove that the automobile was defective. Allowing time to pass puts individuals and family members at risk of losing the evidence needed to prove their case. Road conditions, tire marks, vegetation, crash debris, and other evidence may be lost if investigators are not sent as soon as possible to preserve and document the scene. In the worst case scenario, the automobile may be salvaged or scrapped and lost forever.

Pregnancy Medicine Zofran Linked to Birth Defects

WHAT ARE THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST GLAXOSMITHKLINE?

The legal arguments surrounding Zofran have to do with whether GlaxoSmithKline adequately warned pregnant women about the risks they might face by taking the drug. The allegations against the company include:

- Marketing a drug that can harm users
- Failing to conduct sufficient studies to determine the safety of Zofran in pregnant women
- Failing to sufficiently warn women and doctors about the danger of Zofran in pregnant women
- Improperly marketing the drug

- Marketing a drug that can cause birth defects such as cleft pallet, jaundice, heart defects and musculoskeletal anomalies

WHAT COMPENSATION CAN I BE ELIGIBLE FOR?

Potential compensation varies depending on the facts of the case. But you can rest assured that, if we represent you, we will not stop until we have pursued the maximum compensation possible under the law. You have faced a burden that likely harmed your family physically, emotionally and financially, and that is not right.

Compensation may be available to

cover the medical expenses associated with your baby's condition. We can also seek compensation for the pain and suffering your family has been put through.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? GIVE US A CALL

If you think Zofran may be the cause of your baby's defect, call us at (334) 738-4486. Even if you aren't sure if you have a case, get in touch with us. We can evaluate your situation and let you know what your options are. You are under no obligation, and a case evaluation is free.

Let us tell you how we may be able to help your family seek a brighter future.

with the Service you appreciate.

Personal Injury/Products Liability

18-WHEELER ACCIDENTS

There are significant differences between handling an interstate trucking case and other car wreck cases. It is imperative to have knowledge of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, technology, business practices, insurance coverage's, and to have the ability to discover written and electronic records. Expert testimony is of utmost importance. Accidents involving semi-trucks and passenger vehicles often result in serious injuries and wrongful death. Trucking companies and their insurance companies almost always quickly send accident investigators to the scene of a truck accident to begin working to limit their liability in these situations. Our lawyers, staff and accident investigators immediately begin the important task of documenting and preserving the evidence. We would like to review any case involving catastrophic injury or death.

DEFECTIVE TIRES

Tire failure can result in a serious car crash and even a vehicle rollover accident, causing serious injury or death to vehicle



occupants. Air, heat and sunlight can cause the rubber in tires to break down. When a tire is defective, potentially serious problems like detreads and blowouts can occur long before the tire would be expected to wear out. If the tire failure is the result of design or manufacturing defects, and the manufacturer is aware of the problem, they have an obligation to alert consumers to the potential danger.

PRODUCT LIABILITY

We continue to focus on accident cases involving automobiles, heavy equipment and consumer products. Some of these auto cases involve single-vehicle crashes, while others involve multiple-vehicle accidents.

We would like to review any case involving catastrophic injury or death.

ON-THE-JOB PRODUCT LIABILITY

Many times product claims arise from workers compensation claims. After we investigate the circumstances that caused the injuries, many times we discover a defective machine may be the cause of the injuries.

HEAVY TRUCK PRODUCT LIABILITY CLAIMS

Tractor trailer and other heavy trucks are not required to contain many of the same protections for occupants as smaller passenger cars. They can contain dangerous defects putting the truck driver or passengers at risk of serious injury or death. These trucks many times have particularly weak roofs that crush in rollovers. The passenger compartments are often not protected by effective cab guards, and this allows loads to shift into the truck cab. We would like to review any case involving catastrophic injury or death.

Pharma and Devices

POWER MORCELLATOR

In April, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urged doctors to stop using a medical device called a power morcellator, because studies showed the device may spread cancer. An estimated 1 in 350 women develops uterine sarcoma-a type of uterine cancer- after undergoing a morcellator procedure. Morcellators are typically used to grind away uterine growths such as fibroid tumors, and in hysterectomies. They became popular as a less invasive surgical alternative. The FDA conducted a formal review of the devices in July and announced that its concerns with the morcellator were confirmed. During this time, Johnson & Johnson announced it would stop selling the surgical tools.

XARELTO

Lawsuits filed against Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals and Bayer Corp. over the blood thinner Xarelto have been consolidated in Louisiana federal court. Xarelto has been linked to serious side effects including internal bleeding, gastrointestinal bleeding, brain bleed and death. The Xarelto lawsuits come

on the heels of the recent \$650 million Pradaxa settlement. Researchers linked Pradaxa, also a blood thinning medication, to more than 500 deaths. Xarelto blood thinner litigation has been consolidated before U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon in the Eastern District of Louisiana, who presided over suits against Merck & Co. over its medication Vioxx. The Vioxx litigation resulted in a \$4.85 billion settlement in 2007.

TESTOSTERONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY

(TRT) products for men have been linked to an increased risk of death, heart attack and stroke. Researchers found men who used testosterone therapy were 30 percent more likely to have a heart attack, stroke, or die after three years of use. A second study found that men had a significant increase in risk of heart attack and stroke in just the first 90 days of testosterone therapy use. Furthermore, men who started the study with clear, unobstructed coronary arteries were just as likely to have a heart attack, stroke or die as men who entered the study with established coronary artery disease. Testosterone

therapy, such as the prescription topical treatments Androgel, Testim and Axiron, are used to help boost testosterone levels in men who have a deficiency of the male hormone. Symptoms of low testosterone include decreased libido and low energy.

Fraud

PREDATORY LENDING

Predatory lenders target consumers who historically do not have access to mainstream lending institutions. This group of consumers includes minorities, the economically disadvantaged, the elderly and the uneducated. Predatory loans harm borrowers by making it difficult or impossible for them to keep up with their payments, by such methods as charging the borrowers higher rates of interest, requiring credit insurance productions, exorbitant up-front fees and pre-payment penalties.

CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS

Construction products like tiles, shingles and windows may be defective and not perform as represented. These claims are significant to homeowners and, in many cases, should be investigated.

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By Small Development Every Day



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